



DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Updated Guidance on A+ Eligibility for Postsecondary Students

Issued April 1, 2020

On March 19, 2020, the Missouri Department of Higher & Workforce Development sent guidance related to A+ eligibility for postsecondary students in response to multiple school closures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. That guidance included information about how institutions should handle the full-time enrollment and completion requirements. After receiving several questions from institutions and having additional discussions among department staff, we have determined that initial guidance was insufficient to provide students with the full extent of relief needed in this extraordinary time. As a result, the following guidance supersedes the full-time enrollment and completion requirement guidance issued last week.

Updated Guidance

1. **Full-time Enrollment.** Students enrolled full-time on the date the institution closed or moved to an alternative delivery method will have met the full-time enrollment requirement for the spring 2020 term.
2. Students enrolled full-time on the date the institution closed or moved to an alternative delivery method will have met the completion requirement for the spring 2020 term.
3. The initial guidance did not directly address this issue but clarification is required. Coursework in which the student was enrolled full-time and which was otherwise eligible for reimbursement on the date the institution closed or moved to an alternative delivery method will be eligible for reimbursement.

This guidance still is temporary and applies only to the 2019-2020 academic year and students' ability to renew the A+ award for the 2020-2021 academic year. For all other academic years, students will be required to meet the A+ Scholarship requirements outlined in [Section 160.545, RSMo](#) and the A+ administrative rule, [6 CSR 10-2.190](#).

In addition, *the March 19, 2020, guidance related to **Grade Point Average** remains unchanged:* The A+ Scholarship requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 to renew the award. However, to renew the

award in the 2020-2021 academic year, students must only meet satisfactory academic progress as defined by the school by the end of the spring 2020 term. Students who meet the school's GPA requirement for satisfactory academic progress will be eligible to renew the A+ Scholarship, even if the school requires less than a 2.5 GPA.

The previous guidance is provided below for reference only.

Previous Guidance

1. **Full-time Enrollment.** Schools may use the All Available Hours exception to full-time enrollment for students impacted by closures and/or alternative delivery methods in the spring 2020 term.
2. Students must continue to meet the 12 hours per semester, or 90% of the clock hours for the payment period, completion requirement for the spring 2020 term to be eligible for reimbursement in the first 2020-2021 term in which they enroll. However, as a reminder, students who are eligible for the spring 2020 term under the All Available Hours exception are considered to have met this requirement if they complete all of the hours that were available to them.

Again, the department will issue additional guidance if it becomes necessary as this situation unfolds. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through the issues as they arise.